

REMARKS**Amendments to the Claims**

The Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application with the listing of claims currently provided. Claims 1-3 and 13-24 were amended; and Claim 25 is new.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has restricted the present application under 35 U.S.C. §121 as allegedly disclosing 2 independent and distinct inventions designated Group I (Claims 1-11 and 25) and II (Claims 12-24). The Applicants elect to prosecute Examiner's Group I (Claims 1-11 and 25).

The Examiner has further restricted Group I under 35 U.S.C. §121 as allegedly disclosing species of such diverged subject matter that separate unique searches are required and has designated these embodiments as Group A (an antibody able to selectively bind said polypeptide), Group B (a competitive inhibitor of said polypeptide), Group C (a compound able to selectively prevent the expression of a gene encoding said polypeptide), Group D (a binding protein other than an antibody), Group E (a ribozyme) and Group F (a nucleic acid encoding an inactive growth factor receptor able to bind said growth). The Applicants elect to prosecute Examiner's Group D (a binding protein other than an antibody).

The Examiner has further restricted Group I under 35 U.S.C. §121 as allegedly disclosing species of such diverged subject matter that separate unique searches are required and has designated these embodiments as Group A (IGF I), Group B (IGFII), Group C (CNTF), Group D (NT-3), Group E (NT-4), Group F (BDGF), Group G (LIF), Group H (Tenascin-C), Group I (Ninjurin), Group J (N-CAM) and Group K (N-agrin). The Applicants elect to prosecute Examiner's Group A (IGF I).

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and the Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to issue a Notice to that effect. Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent. Please use Deposit Account 01-0885 for the payment of any extension of time fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 or any other fees due in connection with the current response.

Respectfully submitted,

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